THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 18-19 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

Hello, and welcome back to the TDP reread! I hope y'all are enjoying the new tribes (if you haven't seen them yet, Amazon has previews up, although I wouldn't recommend going more than a few pages in if you don't want spoilers, and you can also find them on the wiki under the "News and Announcements" forum board). This week, Clay has his first arena fight, Glory brings out the venom, and Peril comes to ask a favor.

This reread may contain SPOILERS for any and all Wings of Fire books. If you have not finished the series, read ahead at your own peril.

SUMMARY
Chapter 18: Clay stands in the arena, mind going blank as Vermilion announces him and Fjord. As the battle begins, Clay immediately tries his tactic of "If I talk at it maybe it'll go away"; it doesn't work. He notices Starflight trying to warn him of something, but doesn't realize what it is until he narrowly avoids getting hit with frostbreath. Clay keeps trying to talk his way out of the fight--he defends himself and wonders if he has it in him to kill someone--and then Fjord has him pinned.

Chapter 19: Before Fjord can kill him, Tsunami flings herself off her platform in an attempt to get to Clay. She's still tied up, so it doesn't work, but it does have the effect of distracting the audience, Fjord, and the guards, so Clay is the only one looking when the venom hits Fjord. *Gruesome death count: 4.* Clay is returned to his prison tower, where he huddles the whole day, feeling guilty about numerous things, and eventually he wakes up after dark to find Peril has come back. Peril immediately tells him that the venom was terrifying, and doesn't believe him when he says it wasn't him; she says she's found Sunny, but won't tell him where she is unless he agrees to do something for her. Clay agrees, but mentions her he'd help her anyway. She explains she wants to hide him so she can watch a trial Scarlet's forbidden her from seeing. She brings him mud to heal his scratches and tells him about the black rocks, and then she leaves to get him food; Clay deduces that Kestrel is her mother, and wonders how she's going to react to that.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"'Wait here,' Clay echoed to empty space. 'Because I was going to go where? For a walk?"

THE DRAGONETS
"If he could have killed his nestmates in their eggs, he should be able to kill this dragon who had nothing to do with him.
"But he still couldn't. He kept thinking, Fjord is as much a prisoner as I am. Why should I get to live instead of him?"

Once again, Clay is smarter than he thinks, deducing that Kestrel is Peril's mother like that. (Pfft, I nearly typed "Kestrel is Scarlet's mother")

WORLDBUILDING
"Peril nodded at one of the distant walls of the queen's palace. Clay squinted and saw the reflected glint of moonlight off a cascading waterfall.
"'The Diamond Spray River starts at the bottom of that wall,' Peril said. 'It leads all the way to the sea.'"

BIOLOGY AND CULTURE
"Clay could see beads of silvery liquid dripping through the IceWing's glacier-blue scales."

???
Sweat?

IceWing frostbreath and ridged claws! RainWing venom! MudWing mud-healing!

"...a blast of what looked like sparkling smoke shot out of Fjord's mouth."

It describes the frostbreath as "freezing streams of cold air." There's probably more going on than that....

"Clay inhaled, pulling the warmth up from his chest as Fjord's head snapped around toward him. The IceWing opened his mouth to breathe on Clay again, and Clay sent a blast of fire right between his teeth. ... The flames had been swallowed instantly by the chill of his scales...."

I imagine what's actually going on here is the frostbreath and the fire are counteracting each other, not "Fjord's scales magically eat fire."

More tongue-flicking, this time from Fjord.

"Clay's wings were pummeled by Fjord's, which were silvery and strangely tough." I wonder if this is an IceWing thing or if Fjord's just weird?

About the mud-healing:
Clay: "Wow. Does that work for all MudWings?"
Peril: "Of course. How could you not know that?"

I'd quote some of the descriptions of Glory's venom, but...ick?

For the "Wait, are they quadrupeds or not?" debate: "Fjord interrupted by racing at him with his front talons outstretched. ... Fjord dropped to all fours and ran at Clay again...." Looks like they're ambipeds?

BODY LANGUAGE + NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION:
"[Tsunami] waved her tail at Clay."

"[Peril] exhaled, and a small burst of fire shot from her nose." ~when she thinks Clay is lying about the venom not being him.

CULTURAL BIASES
Nothin' this week

DRAGONSPEAK
In the narration: "Her story had a feel of wrongness to it, like scales that didn't overlap properly."

Well, see you next week as we experience the thrilling trial of Kestrel!

Previous reread: /322699 Index: /317770

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Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

Writer, roleplayer, nerd

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 18-19 | Oncilla

fairydragon1798

This is great!

counts

Gruesome death count: 5

(If you count the scavenger)

0

~Fairydragon~
She/Her

We *will* never *be forgotten*
for we've all played our parts
and if the memories are erased
they'll still be in our hearts

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phoenixdragon1690

There actually was a draft of this where it said "Gruesome death count: 4 (five if you count the scavenger)." XD

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moonsteel33

Wow, all that dragon biology scrunched into two chapters o.o

2

Sanetra

11562+ stars - Apr 2017 - Mar 2019

Life is the greatest gift. You've all helped shape mine. I can never thank you all enough. It's been so good.

Amigos
*eureka*DarkseaBearBlackberryVertigoLector*GulfyCaleoZodiak*TS
...I'm with you to the end

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phoenixdragon1690

poke

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bump

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cleverdragon364

I am suddenly so deeply disturbed by Fjord in this part. I'm imagining a normal dragon but bipedal, wearing a t-shirt with pit stains because I have no idea what else those 'beads of silvery liquid' are. This is so wild.

4

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phoenixdragon1690

Oh yeah, I forgot to mention, but I would like it if someone could do the annotations again.

0

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cleverdragon364

Chapter 18

But the MudWing shifted his gaze away, as if he didn't want to watch but couldn't afford to leave.
Tui: Poor Clay. Turns out tribe loyalty only runs so deep...

"I've never met an IceWing," Clay said, edging back a step. "I've never met much of anyone, really. I mean, I guess I read that you were all the color of ice, but I didn't realize ice came in so many colors. Like, you know, blue. Very surprising. It's cool, though. Oh, ha ha, no pun intended."
Tui: Here he goes again, our sweet and hapless Clay.

Now he remembered the freezing streams of cold air that IceWings could shoot from their mouths.
Tui: I figured the IceWings should have their own awesome power, since they can't have fire (as Clay logically figures out above.)

He'd always hoped his monster wouldn't be necessary. Some part of him had always figured that the prophecy would somehow come true, the war would end, and all dragon killing could be avoided forever and ever...without him ever having to hurt another dragon.
Tui: Here you can see the difference between Scarlet's worldview and Clay's. Maybe you can argue that Scarlet is wiser, more experienced, and knows more about the world of dragons, so she's probably right. But I think there's something wonderful about Clay's idea of the world, too...I mean, wouldn't you rather live in his? If you had the power in this world, wouldn't you want to try to make it more like his version? I think questions like that are worth talking about...

"Less thinking! More killing!"
Tui: This crowd is totally the voice who sits on my shoulder whenever I'm writing these books! Because my

instinct is always to write thinking-thinking-talking-talking-thinking, and then I have to imagine a hundred grouchy SkyWings shouting "MORE CLAWING! MORE KILLING!" and throwing things at my computer screen to make me get back to the action.

Kestrel's shouted battle commands flashed through Clay's head.
Tui: Holy scavengers, all that training with Kestrel actually did teach him something!

Chapter 19

[Tsunami] must have thrown herself off her prison cell, trying to get to Clay.
Tui: I know I keep pointing out the ways I'm like Starflight or Sunny or Clay, but this is one example of where I think I'd do the same thing Tsunami does - if someone was attacking my sister, I would totally jump off a spire in the sky to try to save her, even if it seems like there's no chance it would help.

One of the drops had landed in Fjord's eye, and that was the first thing to disintegrate, leaving a smoking black cavity in his skull. The side of his face slowly dropped away like ice melting. Fjord lurched off Clay, clawing at his own neck. The spray was eating into his open wound.
Tui: I KNOW, this is horrifying - sorry, parents!

Why couldn't death be clean, painless, and fast, if it had to happen at all?
Tui: Because this, this is why it's horrifying - so Clay and the others will understand how awful it is and want to avoid hurting others as much as they possibly can.

"Oh, hi," [Peril] said in a rush. "You were amazing today. Although I have no idea what you did. I was looking at the prisoners and then suddenly - well, yikes. That was scarier than me. I mean, I'm pretty scary. But, wow. How did you do that? You don't have to tell me. I mean, you might have to do it to me. You probably will. Which is the scariest thing ever. It was like - I never thought what it might be like, sitting up here watching me kill other dragons. And then I'm the one watching, and thinking, that's going to happen to me. So. But still amazing. Can you tell me? You don't have to tell me."
Tui: Maybe Peril has a few things in common with Clay, too...nervous chattering, for one...

"I'll tell you where [Sunny] is, but I need you to do something for me. And if you won't do it, I won't tell you."
Tui: This is definitely a mindset that comes from being parented by someone like Queen Scarlet.

Peril scowled as she answered. "Yes, she's fine. Not a scratch on her. Eating like a queen. Making friends with all the guards. It's a little nauseating, if you want to know the truth."
Tui: Sunny gets a lot of dragons rolling their eyes at her in these books!

"I'm the only dragon in the whole Sky Kingdom who's supposed to stay away from the arena tomorrow. It's not fair!"
Tui: Hilarious that Queen Scarlet thought this would work, telling Peril to stay away. I guess Peril hasn't had a lot of reason to disobey her before...but any dragon with even an ounce of curiosity would rebel against an order like this, I would think!

"I wouldn't have cared until she told me not to go."
Tui: Exactly.

"Listening to dragons talk about laws is about as exciting as picking sheep fluff out of your teeth."
Tui: Here is an example of how I think writing about dragons has made my writing better overall - because I can't use easy metaphors/cliches like "as exciting as watching paint dry" (maybe they do have paint - for art, not for walls, though - but it would be such a weird thing to have a dragon say), I end up having to reach for something more unusual and dragon-y. I like this one, because it sounds like something only a dragon would say, and yet you can totally imagine how annoying and boring this activity would be. (Like after eating corn-on-the-cob, which always drives me bananas.)

"I'm too sore," he said to Peril. "I mean, I'll try. But I can't really open my wings right now, so I don't know if I can hide you."
Tui: This is a sort of writing trick, although I did it subconsciously - Clay isn't the kind of dragon who would complain about his wounds to anyone, so there needed to be a reason for Peril to check out his injured back.

"The Diamond Spray River starts at the bottom of that wall," Peril said.
Tui: Among the things I find hardest to write: titles of books and names of geographic features. I had to think

about all the parts of the map for such a long time...and I'm still inventing some of them now, as the characters get to them in books 7 and 8!

"You must be one of the most powerful dragons here. Why don't you just come and go as you please?"
Tui: This is an EXTREMELY EXCELLENT POINT, Clay. And the answer has everything to do with being raised by someone particularly manipulative and controlling.

"Is that why don't challenge her for the throne?" Clay asked. "Because I'm betting you could beat her in a fight."
Tui: Clay, being Clay, is forgetting that only daughters, sisters, and nieces of the queen can challenge her for the throne.

Plus there were those burn scars on Kestrel's talons.
Tui: I remember I added Kestrel's burn scars in the second draft, as a clue to the Kestrel/Peril relationship...although it's just a small clue, so I'd be very impressed if anyone figured it out before Clay does!

4

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Cool, thanks!

0

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fantasticllama19

hey! i'm a bit late since i was kinda busy when this started and didn't have much time for reading, but do you mind if i join for next week? taking apart all the details in the books (especially the dragon biology stuff) seems really interesting and cool (plus the first arc is amazing and i haven't read it in soooo long)

0

eureka
moved to @thankfulthunderstorm1 :D

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phoenixdragon1690

Anyone's welcome to join in at any time!

1

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fantasticllama19

awesome!

0

eureka
moved to @thankfulthunderstorm1 :D

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